

THE Test and Tryal of Medicines,

AND

The different **MODES** of Medical Practice.

Shewing what *Hopes of Help*, from

Physick and Physicians.

By **E. M. Med. D.**

Mundus Errore tenetur.

M*edicines* being of the greatest Importance, and the principal part of the *Art of Physick*: they require the greatest Consideration, serious Care, and strict Examination, for an assurance of their validity and worth; for as much as the Reputation of the *Physician*, and Life of the *Patients*, doth depend thereon: an error or neglect herein, frustrates and baffles all the *Physician's* Learning; and if he be not skillful (not by Book reading, but Manual Operation) in this grand work, all his other learned qualifications are but deceit, and avail little in Curing. And since the Import of *Medicines* is so great, as being the immediate Instruments contending with *Diseases*; and from their Power and Excellency, Curing is performed or frustrated; it mainly behooves the *Physician* (and as much it concerns the *Patients*) that he be compleatly provided with a stock of elaborate, excelling *Medicines*, reformed and well proved; such as he may confide in; to oppose the secret intestine Enemies, that prey upon *Health* and *Life*; and with which he may repair and support the Fabrick of humane Bodies, unto the period of their term, by the common Course of *Nature*: else it may be said, this or that Person came to an untimely end; as many do, for want of good means, or due administration. This premised, I proceed to the matter proposed.

- All *Medicines*, that are designed and formed by *Art*, in respect of their Latitude, comprehension, and adaption; may be divided into three Ranks or Classes: and then they are either *Catholic*, *Specific*, or *Appropriate*.

- The *Catholic* (or universal) is a Medicine of large extent and comprehension, applicable to, and useful in many and various *Diseases*, and also in divers *Persons*.

- The *Specific* Medicine is such, as *Nature* or *Art* hath specified and designed for the Cure of one particular Disease only; and that in divers *Persons*.

- The *Appropriate* Medicine, is yet narrower and more restrained, being prescribed for, and adapted to the particular Case of one single Person only; under such circumstances and complicated Infirmities.

- Now to compare these three sorts of Medicines, of different extensions; as touching their worth, usefulness and certainty in Curing; my Judgment and Experience determines

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The *Catholic* Medicine, that hath been steadily formed, oft revised, reformed and meliorated, by a skilful *Artist* in *Pharmacy*; long and often proved, and thereby approved, for its amicable, steady, and certain operation; and most frequently attended with Success: this excels all other; for its generous Latitude, and comprehensive Virtues; being a ready, most confiding, and advantageous assistant against many *Diseases*; very useful, and fitly applicable to divers *Persons*, though differently seized and afflicted; but requiring such manner of Operation as this *Catholic* performs: whether it be *Cathartic*, *Diaphoretic*, *Diuretic*, &c. thus allowing a plurality of *Catholics*, distinct in their operations.

The *Specific* Medicine (that is truly so) having been frequently experimented, and seldom failing to do its Work; is a rare good *Medicine* for a single *Disease*; but then it is bounded within that narrow compass of one particular Malady; and its virtues are not of that generous, useful, and extensive Nature, like the *Catholic* Medicine; and is therefore inferior in excellency and worth, excepting only against that *Disease*, for which it is *specified*, or peculiarly adapted.

The *Appropriate* prescribed Medicine, adapted to *Person* and *Case* (in the new Mode of Practice) though seemingly founded upon much Learning, by traditional Book assistance; yet is much more casual, hazardous, uncertain in operation and success, much less to be presumed and relied on, than the two former Medicines: for this is but a *Prescript* designed by conjecture and probability, and an Experiment to be made at a venture, or at best by analogy, which is no certain Rule: and therefore this appropriated chance-Medicine, must come far behind the two former, in dignity and safety, because they are Medicines proved and approved; this never was proved, but waits for Sentence until the tryal be past; and whether this appropriated *Recipe* will prove good or bad, the *Doctor* cannot tell, but he hopes well: and this he will say for himself, the Ingredients are all good and harmless: but that is not sufficient; for granted that all these things be innocent and good in themselves, as you say, it does not therefore necessarily follow, that they must needs make a good Medicine, for such a purpose, and to operate so and so; but it may happen much otherwise.

Now the reason why this *Appropriated* Medicine, though contrived and appointed by learned Men, should be thus uncertain and dubious to rely on, are these: First, Because every new association of ingredients, or variety of preparation and manner of composition (to form an *Appropriate* Medicine) so much alters the Ingredients, in their properties and virtues, by acting and re-acting upon each other, that their single Natures and Virtues are not the same in this, as they were in another Conjunction: and every new mixture, or different preparation, makes such a change in their harmony and agreement, that the result or product is not foreknown by the best guessing judgment; but tryal and use must declare, whether it be good or bad: whether these things will yoke, and draw amicably together; whether they will all concur and conspire with the intended operation: and if they will be subjugated, unite and comply with the form of the Medicine; and whether a disproportion in their quantities may not appear afterwards, and some ingredient may be unduly exalted, and prevail over the rest, to a disgust at least, if not a greater injury; in biasing the Medicine from the operation intended. He that can make all these requisites, so evenly to fall in with the Medicine, and hit it so rightly, upon the first projection (of an *Appropriated* Medicine) is a wonderful lucky Man: and to do all this, in a quarter of an hour, at the Sick Man's Chamber, with *Pen* and *Ink*; and I cannot design and compleat a Medicine at home in a quarter of a year, with the use of a *Laboratory*, to be well satisfied therein; this is strange, very strange. But look into these appropriated *Recipes*, filed at the Shops, and the Mystery of this does plainly appear; That they are not such as the World does believe them to be; but a sort of squinting, discordant, uncertain, unreformed Medicines, upon the view of an expert Operator in *Pharmacy*.

Secondly,

Secondly, No certainty of knowledge in the Patient you design the *appropriated Medicine* for (further than the *Catholic* and *Specific* adaption) in as much as no *idiosyncratical*, or individual propriety of Person is foreknown; in point of operation and agreement of Medicine, farther than the trials and experiments made upon the humane Nature of Bodies, with many other Persons: and therefore every new invented, untried Medicine, adapted to *Person* and *Case*, are but presumed, uncertain and unsafe; and it necessarily follows, that the *Catholic* and *Specific* Medicines, are much to be preferred, and more to be relied on, because sufficiently tried and proved, to agree and perform with many.

And thus much in short (yet much more is to be said) concerning *appropriated Recipe's* or *Prescripes*, untried new Medicines, contrived with Pen and Ink, and transmitted to the Shops to be made up: being compared with the *Catholic's* and *Specific's*, the Pharmacæutick *Arcana's*, standing Medicines, repositied in the Physicians Closet, being the result and perfection of long labour, industriously and carefully prepared in their own Laboratory, well proved and compleated; ready for Practice. And this determination, upon the comparison of Medicines in this triple division; I make from *Reason*, and my *Experience* in both the Modes of Practice, having first been conversant near ten years together in the prescribing Practice, making Experiments with *Appropriate Medicines*, *pro re nata*; and since, for above twenty years, operating in Medicinal Preparations (to be Master of *Catholic* and *Specific* Medicines, more secure and certain in their Operations) and practising therewith.

Having thus shewed you the several distinct and bounded Latitudes, the aim and scope of Medicines, in their design of Adaptation to *Persons* and *Cases*, and my Judgment thereupon; next we shall consider Medicines, in their different manner of Operation or Working; how they assist Nature against all the Diseases that assault and afflict her; and what effects we may rationally expect from their Power and Virtues. And here you will have before you, Nature's Directory, for performing of Cures in all Diseases that shall present; and how she is to be relieved in her præternatural State, and deviations from her right and regular Course.

There are six Cardinal Operations, or principal wayes, by which Medicines do operate, for the discharge and throwing off all excremental, morbid matter, that is bred or received into the Body, viz. by *Purgation*, *Transpiration*, *Urination*, *Salivation*, *Expectoration* and *Corroboration*; hereby to preserve or restore Health decayed: and these are promoted and used in Nature's Method, which she performs in the constant work of Nutrition; casting out the relics, and superfluous matter of our food, not fit to be retained; she works by *stool*, *transpires*, *urines*, *salivates*, *expectorates*; and lastly *corroborates*, with the *Quintessence* extracted from *Aliment*; and this enables Nature to perform all the rest.

Now these *Evacuations*, and Roborating assistance, are to be promoted by Medicine, as Nature oppressed or decayed, doth chiefly require and stand in need of; sometimes the one, sometimes the other. In some Cases, one of these Operations, duly prosecuted, with an excellent good Medicine, is sufficient; as *Purgation* alone sometimes doth all that is needful to restore the Person complaining: other conditions of Body may require two: as *Purg-ing*, and also *roborating* the Faculties. Sometimes three several operations are required by turns: to restore lost Health, and sometimes four are needful; as in Contumacious and Complicated Diseases, in difficult and decayed Bodies. And by this *Method* all Physicians ought to go with secure well proved Medicines; and thus all Cures are regularly to be performed, and not otherwise, by various, uncertain, invented Medicines.

Now these being the certain ways, and only chief *Methods* of Curing; the frustration and failing herein (as to the *Physician's* part) is from the insufficiency and defect of Medicines, to operate compleatly those Intentions. And since the design of Curing, most safely and most certainly, falls under such a method and management as this; then it mainly con-

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cerns the Physician, to be furnished with a stock of such choice Medicines of his *own* elaboration, formed, reformed, and sufficiently proved, wherewith to dispatch his Undertakings satisfactorily, and with credit: and it as much concerns the Sick and Diseased, to find out such Physicians, from whom they may expect the greatest help and relief, they are capable of; especially in difficult and deplorable Cases; and not to be Patient sufferers, and tryers of conjectural new invented *Recipe's*, and uncertain traditional *Book* Medicines, taken up upon trust, collected from Authors, and transcribed from one another.

There are three principal things which concerns a Physician to know, when he is sent for to the sick or diseased; in any of which, if he fails, the Patient may miscarry or linger.

First, By questions, and by the symptoms that present, what the Disease or Complication of Diseases the Patient labours under.

Secondly, What Operation, or Operations of Nature in Man's Body, are to be promoted, or assisted; for relief in the present Case; and which to precede.

Thirdly, With what Medicine, or Medicines, this Operation, or Operations, are to be performed by.

For the *first*, That is to be done at the Patient's House, in his presence. The two latter, at the Physician's House: he must make no Medicines with Pen and Ink in the Patient's Chamber; but return home, and there consider of the operation indicated, and most rational to give help in that Case; whether purging, sweating, corroborating, &c. otherwise: which having determined, the Medicine is to be sent away immediately, if so requiring; and this Medicine ought to be ready prepared (by himself and Servants) and well proved, long before the use of it was wanted, or required.

But the *Prescriber*, he makes Medicines upon a piece of Paper in the Sick Man's Chamber; and would have the Patient believe, that all his Complaints are put into the Medicine; something for this, and something for that, and another ingredient for the other ailment: but alas, here is a great mistake, Medicines will not be designed and formed after this manner; Medicines are not to be made by *Indications*, though they are to be exhibited by *Indications*. You must not mix this and that together, as proper and suitable (in your Phancy) against this and that complicated Infirmary; the Medicinal Composition may then prove as discordant and disorderly in it self, as the Diseases in the Patient's Body were repugnant, and exasperating one another. Because (you will say) the ingredients are all very good; therefore the Medicine must needs be very good: that's a *non sequitur*. You must steer by another Compass, if ever you will arrive at the true knowledge of Medicines, or the right Method of Curing. After your *Mode* of guessing at Medicines, many an unlucky Medicine hath been invented; the effects whereof are too bad: but all must then be father'd upon the Disease, that was so intractable and malignant, as to produce such unexpected strange Symptoms: pertinent to this matter, take the following Story.

Calling at a House, where formerly I had a Patient, there was one sick at that time there; the People of the House, being my acquaintance, desired me to go up, and give my opinion of the Sick Person, which I refused, because under the charge and cure of another Physician: but being importuned, I was prevailed upon, and did go into the Chamber; I viewed the sick, and asked some Questions; understanding who the Physician was, a Man of good Learning and Repute, I gave him his due, and said, he well knew what he had to do; and seeing some Glasses upon the Table; I tasted of one, with a Label, inscribed, The *Cordial*: of a manish, flat, and sweet tast, more likely to make a Stomach sickish, than to refresh and cheer a faint languishing Stomach. I took another Bottle, and tasted a few drops upon the Pallat, turning it about in my Mouth, but swallowed none; yet this so drew my Chaps together, with such vehement astringency, that my breath was stop't a while, until I could recover my self: If any one would give me a hundred Guineas, I durst not take a Spoonful down, for fear of Suffocation. I said little; only that I did not like that

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that Medicine; but my thoughts were full. Two or three days after, meeting a Servant of that House in the street, I asked how that Patient did; the answer returned, she was dead. Now these Medicines were prescribed by guess, at a venture, and ill composed: or else the Apothecary, or his Servant, was highly in fault: but where the miscarriage was, did not belong to me to examine; and so it past off. The *Doctor* was an able Man; the *Apothecary* was an honest Man; and the *Patient* was become a dead Woman: and there is an end of the Story. But not a few such Casualties do fall out in the *Prescribing Practice*; and many People can tell such Melancholy Tales, something like to this. The *Diseases*, and unhappy *Casualties* thereupon, in and about *London*, if a true account could be had, would make a Weekly Bill, not inconsiderable, but worth remarking.

I see, and do hear of many learned *Men*, and yet I can see but a very few learned *Medicines*: either they fail in the *association*; (an Ox and an Afs cannot well draw together) or by *disproportion* in quantities, or in the *manner* of Process, and finishing. If Learning be not brought down into the Medicine, what signifies Learning in point of Curing; only a varnish, and a flourish, to set off and dazel Folks Eyes: Let me see the Medicine, I'll tell you what the *Doctor's* Learning is worth, in the design of Curing.

The *great Men* of the World, that can command all the assistance and help this *Art* can afford; and therefore deem themselves the more secure; are oftentimes the most unfortunate, under *Physick*, of all others; chiefly at the times of the *greatest danger*, in *acute* and peracute Sickneses: having three or four, or more *Physicians* to attend them: each of them must put in for a share, in designing and forming the Medicines: one will have this, another that ingredient, and a third, something else to be added: then the form of the Medicines, and the *Modus preparandi*, is not readily agreed upon, but dissent and thwarting arises there, each Man stiff in his opinion, and loth to yield; but the urgency of the Case, admitting no delay, sometimes forceth an *abrupt Conclusion*; not a free *Consent*, and general *Concurrence*. Now what can you expect from these *Consultations*, and excogitated *new Compositions*, though designed by Men of Learning; for they themselves can have no assurance in them, but an uncertain conjecture; no well grounded hope: and so long as Practice thus depends upon the *Invention* of Remedies, whose operations will be very *Casual*, and then *success* must needs be very *dubious*. And now, my Lord, you have but a *Chance* Medicine for all your *Guineas*; but that's not all the loss; here is a cast thrown for your Life: it may happen well, by the benign aspect of your Stars; the good *Providence* that protects you; but not the *Doctor's* Skill: they put it upon the *Venture*; they can have no true knowledge of such *Appropriated Medicines*; and what the result of their mixture will be, is but strangely presumed, and groundlessly hoped; being formed without a *Rule*, and not confirmed by experimented *Proofs*: for although the single ingredients be good and innocent in themselves, yet what their *Concord* will be in *Composition*, and what *Concurrence* to the intention aimed; nothing but *Experience* in the Tryal can determine. If then dubious Medicines be put upon dangerous Diseases, the attempt seems desperate, and the event looks fatal.

If this be the Practice of *Physick*, then *Physick* shall never be practised (after this manner) upon me: then rather give me the Countryman's Pepper *Poffet*, and I'll venture it that way. I don't like to die by *Physick*: then I shall know, whether my Disease be mortal or not: but he that dies in the other chance Practice, who can tell, whether his Disease, or his Medicines, let him slip, or thrust him out of the World. 'Tis a known saying, *Plures gela quam gladius*: and I wish it were not as probably true, *Plures Medicamenta quam morbus*. I have a farther charge to exhibit against the *Prescribing Practice*, which you may expect at my next opportunity: then the World shall see what they have doted on, and what they have trusted their lives with.

In my former Sheet called, *A serious Debate, relating to Health and Sicknes*: having there

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set forth and proved, that from the beginning, and for many hundred years after, *Physicians* were all *Preparers* of Medicines for their own Practice. That Medicines were then celebrated with the Author's Names and Places, for the People to resort thither. That of later times, *Physicians* have imprudently departed from that laudable and exemplary custom; and taken up the new Mode of prescribing to the *Shops*: an innovation hazardous to the *Patient*, injurious to the *Progress* and Performance of this *Art*; rendring it uncertain and unsafe: and in the end will prove the ruine of the *Professors*. That although illiterate *Empericks* have defamed the publishing of Medicines, by ipreading their trifles abroad; yet the legal *Physician* is not to decline his duty, because such Interlopers inroach upon his Priviledges and right; for such abuses will happen in the best of things.

And as for my self, having deserted the *Prescribing* Practice near thirty years, and adhered to the Practice of the *Antients*; I there made mention of some Medicines of my own Preparation, conform to the *Ancient* Custom of the most renowned *Physicians*, and there gave an account of their Virtues, Dose, and manner of use; that those who stand in need thereof, may know where such help is to be had: which perhaps elsewhere, the like may not to be purchased. In vain it is diligently to labour a long time, and earnestly pursue the acquiring of extraordinary means; and being attained, then to bury the success in obscurity, and deprive the World of that relief, which many have languished for want thereof, and now are dead.

The Medicines named, were such as most generally are wanted; viz. *Scorbutic Pills*, and a *Restoring Elixir*.

The *Pills*, by their *Purgative* and *Diuretick* Operations, radically cleanse and purify the Body, from all *Scorbutic* and degenerate humours: which being evacuated and drawn forth, the various *Diseases* bred from those Causes, must needs wither, and will daily lessen, if duly prosecuted: They fitly apply to most Cases, requiring *Purgation* and *urinary* evacuations, and readily serve upon all emergent occasions, or seasonable preventions; operating with great ease and safety, in young or aged, and the tenderest or weakest Persons, the Dose being suitable. And being of such great use, and durable in keeping; some provident People, do keep them as necessary provision, to be ready, and not to seek them at the time of need.

The *Restoring Elixir* performs a different operation from the *Pills*; but is frequently used by turns with them: for as they by cleansing carry off the impurities and noxious humours that oppress, clog, and obstruct the functions of several *Parts* of the *Body*, from performing their office; so this assisting *Elixir* is very useful, to quicken, strengthen, and raise up the faculties that are languid and weak; to rectify and reinforce them, when declining and deviating; giving an additional strength, for reducing them again into the true execution of their offices.

I there also mentioned a Medicine very useful and proper for *Ireland*, against the Disease frequent in that Country, and other Diseases usually attending *Camps* and *Navies*, which have proved so mortal to many now of late; which gives me cause to think, the Medicinal help hath not been so fit, and efficacious, as ought to be. If people of the best rank be meanly serv'd at home, though purchased at a considerable Charge; what will not serve to fill up a *Chest*, to be sent abroad for the use of *Souldiers* and *Seamen*? the formality of *Physick* is enough; they did not die without the use of Medicines; and to alter this course, is against some Mens Interests; therefore any thing else proposed, though ten times better, it shall be opposed and stifled. I wish so well to the publick service, that my zeal makes me bold to offer my sentiments, which I hope will not be repented ill, because intended well.

But I hear, there is care taken for a better supply; that ten *Physicians* are put upon the work. If they be *Pharmacopians*, Operators in Medicines; I shall expect something extraordinary

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traordinary from them; but otherwise, if Readers of Medicines, and only Book Learned; I expect no more than the result of other Consultations; conjectural, presumed, chance *Medicines*. I cannot well think, how a compleat, adapt Medicine, should be made by *Consultation*, unless the occasion requiring, could wait upon many Adjournments, and days of trial; to prove, reform, and meliorate their first invention: for many a Medicine that hath been thought very good and promising upon the projection, hath been found mean upon the trial, and rejected.

One Mans experience in a Medicine, is better than *ten Mens invention* of a Medicine: take that for an *Aphorism*. And *one Man* sometimes finds out that, which a *hundred* cannot; and *thousands* never did. Here are *ten Mens Heads*, but where are the *Hands*? The *Apothecaries* are to find *Hands*: If *Heads* and *Hands* do not go together, I doubt the Medicines will be *spurious*. But farther, you'll say, here will be *ten Mens experience*, and that's surer than *one Mans*: but then consider how hard a thing, and almost impossible it is, that the experience of *many* in the form, and methodical use of Medicines, should run so even, and represent each other in uniformity and likeness; but there must be some grains of allowance for disparity here and there, to piece them together, for an accord and union of *Parity*; to stamp the certainty of one *homogeneous* experience upon them; and when that is done, I say, all these *experiences*, so modelled, and reduced into one *Masse*, cannot be truly called concurring experience, in *omnibus*, that deserves a *Probatum est*, and a true Copy to form experienced Medicines by; but you must call it a probable experiment to be made; and as yet wants Confirmation by proofs. If it be so, as in reason it is; then I must say, that a comprehensive single Medicine, well approved by *one Mans Experience* (*sic ut Artifex*) is more to be relied on, than a Method of Medicines, from such a compounded Experience of many. But if I prove, you can make no true observation in your new Mode of Practice, and your experience not grounded thereupon; your judgment must needs appear fallacious, and the essential part of your ability taken away: for what is it that makes a *Physician* able and secure in practice, but *experience* founded upon true *observations*: and without this knowledge, he is but as a Novice, an uncertain conjecturing Man in the methods of Curing, although an ancient Practiser. But this I must prosecute in my next.

Since all Learning, reasoning, and designing of Medicines, must give way, and yield up to *Experience*; than which nothing so certain to depend on; I must then prefer my single tried Remedy, before the methods of any learned *Consultation* whatever. Having seen the proofs thereof, and manner of operation, in various, difficult, and deplorable Cases: one whereof was my own, and the condition so desperate, as I would not wade through the like again, for a heap of *Gold* and *Diamonds*: when all hopes in other Medicines failed, this alone rescued me (*Deo juvante*) performing the whole course, and answering all the indications that remarkable cure required. The story too long to insert here; or the *Consummation* Diseases of others, in which this Medicine hath relieved. One part of its usefulness and excellency lyes here; that it is easily managed; whereas *Methods* of Medicines, being various, both in *Method* and *Medicine*; they always require the attendance of a Physician, upon each particular sick Person, which cannot be allowed to an *Army* marching, or dispersed into *Quarters*, or a *Fleet* at Sea. And as for internal Ulcers, or Wounds made by Gun-shot, or Instrument, where the Surgeon's hand cannot come to dress, but must depend upon *internal* means; this promotes digestion in the wounded part, and also dischargeth the purulent matter, or quittour; performing the office of a *Balsam*, and disposeth to healing: and if a Surgeon hath such an *expedient* as this to work with, it facilitates and sets forward his business with all imaginable safety. This is no new *Invention* (to allure) contrived upon the present expedition and juncture of Affairs; but I can prove it was fortunately designed some years since, upon an extraordinary emergent occasion; with its use and successes in various cases afterwards in Practice. So that I offered nothing upon bare projection.

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projection and rational probability; but grounded upon matters of fact, the greatest assurance that can be given to support the credit of a Medicine.

I am the more free upon the Character of this Medicine (yet not the half of what I have to say) because I mentioned it as most advantageous for the Publick Service; that you may not think I offered a *trifle*, or what is ordinary: I wish there may be such a Medicine found in the Medicinal Apparatus, for Army or Navy: but I do not expect it. As for Contagious Diseases, which oftentimes do infest Armies and Fleets (the causes whereof I could assign) and begets great Mortality, and this for want of a right understanding thereof, good, preventive, and curative means, and due Administration; but few are fitted for this work. I have seen the highest Contagion that hath been known in England (Plague at London, 1665.) and voluntarily engaged therein from first to last) when most Physicians ran away, and deserted the people in that Calamity: But I being provided with Antidotes preventive and Curative, and knowing it was my Duty, I therefore feared nothing, and visited those People seized with the Pestilence (as I do now any other Disease) my self remaining in good health during the Contagion.

I wish for a sight of the Catalogue of Medicines designed for the service; then I could say something more in this matter.

Quibusdam Remedia monstranda sunt, quibusdam inculcanda. Senec.

From my House in Old Southampton Buildings,
over against Grays-Inn, Jan. 1690.

E. Maynwaringe.

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